

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, March 11. to Saturday, March 13. 1713.

IT cannot but be remembered that the Author of a certain Book call'd the *CRISIS*, says. That the *House of Bourbon bids fairer for Engrossing all the Trade of Europe than it did before the War.* Vide *Crisis*, p. 31.

This being the most wise Oracle of its kind that has said any Thing about Trade of late, the *MERCATOR* cannot but agree with that Gentleman; and if he will but change his *more* into *as* much, he agrees exactly with the *MERCATOR* for the *MERCATOR*. They never bid fair for it in this World, neither before the War or since, and the *Crisis* has not offered one Word to prove that they ever bid fair for it before the War, or that they bid fairer for it now.

It cannot but make the most considering Men smile to hear People talk of a Nation Engrossing Trade, that have no Wool for their Manufactures, and but a poor deal of Shipping for Navigation, and whose Situation is an effectual Bar against their so much as meddling in several considerable Trades in the World, and others of their Circumstances are the like Bar against other Branches. For Example,

It is peculiar to France, that there is not one River in the whole Kingdom of France whose Influx to the Sea is in the said Kingdom of France; but what either rises within the Kingdom or Enters it so small, that it gives France no Navigation by it into any other Country. The River Rhosne, and as Branches excepted which helps them a little on the side of Switzerland, Geneva, &c.

By this Situation France is entirely cut off from the Trade with the Heart of Europe, I mean the whole Empire of Germany and its adjacent Dominions. They are likely then to Engross the Trade.

On the other Hand, several Rivers, whose Course out of France empties themselves into, and through other Countries, give those Countries an Inlet even into the Heart of France, by which France is so far from Engrossing the Trade of Europe, that it cannot carry on its own Trade, but several Goods of its own Growth are fain to be Exported to other Countries to be carry'd from thence into other Parts of France. For Example,

The Growth of Gascogne, Languedoc, Anjou, &c. be it in Wines, wrought Silks, Olives, Oil or Fruit, &c. are shipped from Bourdeaux to Holland, and sent up the Maes into the North of Champaign, and by the

Moselle and the Saar to Alsatia, and Country between the Saar and the Rhine, nor can they be carry'd into those Countries by any other way but by a long Voiture by Land at an intollerable Expence, and such as would ruin the Trade it self.

Is this the Nation than that bids fair to Engross all the Trade of Europe, when here is the greatest part of Europe they have no Correspondence with, nor can Trade with, but by the help of their Neighbours? Indeed when France has obtain'd the whole Monarchy of Europe it may be said in one respect, that they have the Trade, but the *MERCATOR* will not charge the Author of the Guardian with so mean a Quibble as that; And yet were they to flye to that Shift it would not answer their End, for were the King of France Monarch of all Europe he could not do it; he could not sail without Ships, carry by Water without Sea or Rivers; he could not make Manufactures without Wool; he might have the Dominion of the Country, but the Trade would run much as it does.

This new Custom of Magnifying the formidable Power of France, so as to make him a Terror to this Nation; is a Device lately taken up, which answers but a few Ends, and those not the honestest neither; what the Design is, let these Men tell the World if they are not ashamed of it: Of their Military Greatness the *MERCATOR* says nothing, it being no part of the Work of this Paper; Tho' it seems very irrational to say, that the French are more Formidable now than they were before the War; if that can be made good, what has this Nation been doing so long? When after so many Victories, and after beating the French so effectually they should be supposed to be yet in a Capacity to ruin us all, and they should be more Formidable than when they first began. This would be an unanswerable Reason for making the Peace with them.

But this is all Coin'd, and the mix'd Mettal appears in it at first View, for take the Case as it stands, it is all a Cheat; but particularly as to matters of Trade, the French are utterly incapable, and that several ways for Example. 1. They have no Ships for their Trade. 2. They have no Trade for their Ships.

When we say NO Ships and NO Trade we must be understood Comparatively; it is allow'd that the French have Ships. and that they have encreased their Shipping of late Years very much; but they have no Shipping compar'd to what the Maritime Powers, viz. Britain and Holland possess and employ no Shipping compar'd to the Trade of Europe, which this Author says



they bid fair for Engrossing. It is evident, the Dutch employ more Shipping in their Fisheries, and the Trade depending on it, than all the Shipping of France. The English employ more Shipping in their West-India Trade, than all the Shipping of France.

62 We now speak of Foreign Commerce. It is true the French have a pretty large Coasting Trade among themselves, and this employs some Ships, generally small Craft. But the *MERCATOR* undertakes to prove, as far as such a Thing admits Proof, and so far as may satisfy any reasonable Person, that take the French Shipping in all its Improvement, this Island of Britain employs more Tons of Shipping in that One home Trade of Carrying of Coals, than all the Shipping of the whole Kingdom of France amounts to, take them small and great, at home and abroad, their Men of War only excepted.

And is this the Nation that shall Engrols the Trade of the World! What must their Trade be carried on without Ships? And must the great Navigators of the World, the English and Dutch, lose their Trade to a Nation that neither have Ships, nor if they had, could employ those Ships? Which is the next Head.

2. That the French have no Trade to employ such a Number of Shipping as the English and Dutch employ. Can the French find Business for the Shipping which the Dutch employ in their Fishing Trade to the North, as well the Herring Fishing as the Whale Fishing, or as the Dutch employ in their Corn Trade and Naval store Trade to the East-Country? Can the French find employ for such a Quantity of Shipping as we employ in our Fisheries and Colleries, or in our West-India Trade, or in our Wine Trade?

It is an unaccountable Assurance that these Men Talk with, of the French Engrossing all the Trade of Europe, when they have no Power to protect their Shipping, and no Trade to employ it.

Let us look back to the War; What were the French at Sea? Did they carry on any more than a Pyrrhical War most part of the time, and indeed all the last War? When they fitted out their Grand Fleet, were they not forced to Unman and Call in their Privateers? When they Mann'd their Privateers, they laid up their Men of War.

True it is, our numerous Shipping made their Pyrrhical Trade too Gainful to them; and our many and remote Colonies gave them too frequent Opportunities to surprize us: But whenever they met us upon the high Sea, and fought us in Fleets, did we not blow them out of the Sea?

Did they dare to come to a close Engagement with us? And in those Engagements we have had with them, have they not always had the worst? Till at last they found there was no more Contending with us at Sea; And so they resolved to lay up their Fleets for good and all, and quit the Dominion of the Sea to us.

And are not these Men asham'd to tell us of the French Engrossing the Trade of Europe, when they are not Masters of the Sea? Can a Nation who dare not look us in the Face at Sea, prevail over the World in Trade?

When they have beaten us at Sea, something of this kind may be Talk'd of; but while the English and Dutch are the Chief in Maritime Power, they will Command the Trade of the World. And all the Notion of the French Engrossing it, is a meer Party-Clamour, a Noise about Nothing, a Labouring Mountain, which will bring forth Nothing, or but ridiculous *Mis*; and the *MERCATOR* firmly believes, that the People who put these things upon the World are of the same Opinion, abating only, that it serves their present Occasion to have the People Imposed upon.

This very Argument would hold good in the Affair which so much agitates our Minds, at this time, about the Pretender. If the British Nation pleases to encourage and improve their Naval Strength, they may Establish their own Security against all the Invaders and all the Pretenders in the World. But this is not the proper Subject of the *MERCATOR*.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in One Week,
February 27.

100 Serges
10 Stuffs
2 parcels Apparel
24 lb. Wrought Leather
12 C. $\frac{1}{2}$ Wrought Iron and Brass
54 Fod. 7 C. Lead
6 Ton 2 C. Lead Oar
1 Ton 5 C. Lead Shot
14598 lb. Cotton Wooll
978 lb. Cotton Yarn
5 Bags Spanish Wooll
24 lb. Estridge Feathers
1 Ton 16 C. Glew
5 Ton 1 C. Allom
4 Ton 3 C. Copperas
55 Ton 19 C. Logwood
2 Ton 3 C. Saffras
1 Ton 5 C. Gumsandriak
11500 Horn Plates
2 Gallons Citron water
462 Canes
* 1456 Callicoes
39519 lb. Virginia Tobacco
5691 lb. Pepper
400 qr. Barley
800 qr. Rye
1200 qr. Wheat } from Hull.



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